Voices in the Garden

Mark a story for expressive reading

5.RF.4.b "Read grade-appropriate texts in a variety of genres orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and prosody (stress, phrasing, intonation, and expression)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the story aloud, then underline two words you would stress, circle one punctuation mark that changes your voice, and draw a slash at two places you would pause.

The Squeak Beneath the Pot

1 The garden was quiet after the rain, except for a tiny squeak near the stone path. Nia stopped so fast that Ben nearly bumped into her. "Did the path just squeak?" she whispered. Ben leaned toward a puddle. "No, listen. It came from under that flowerpot." They stood still, holding their breath, while the squeak came again, louder this time.

2 Ben reached for the pot, but Nia caught his sleeve. "Wait! What if something is trapped?" Her voice rose with worry. They lifted the pot together and found a small toad beneath it. The toad blinked at the sudden light. "Oh," Ben said softly, "you were trying to tell us to move." Nia laughed, then lowered her voice so she would not startle it.

3 They carried the pot to a dry patch beside the fence. The toad hopped toward the wet leaves, then stopped. "Is it going back?" Ben asked. For a moment, neither child moved. Suddenly, the toad sprang into the leaves with a loud rustle. "There it goes!" Nia called. Ben grinned. "Next time, let's check before we move anything in the garden."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should your voice sound when Nia asks, “Did the path just squeak?” Give one clue from the story.

2. Where should you pause in “Wait! What if something is trapped?” How should “Wait!” sound?

3. How should Ben’s pace and volume on “Oh” differ from Nia’s voice on “Wait!”?

4. Should Nia sound excited or disappointed when she calls, “There it goes!” What happens just before she speaks?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two original lines of dialogue about a surprise at school, each showing a different feeling. Put a slash at a pause and underline a word to stress in each line, then read both lines aloud with fitting expression.

ANSWER KEY

Voices in the Garden

GRADE 5 · 5.RF.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the story aloud, then underline two words you would stress, circle one punctuation mark that changes your voice, and draw a slash at two places you would pause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How should your voice sound when Nia asks, "Did the path just squeak?" Give one clue from the story.	**Quiet and surprised, with a questioning rise. The story says Nia whispered.**
2	Where should you pause in "Wait! What if something is trapped?" How should "Wait!" sound?	**Pause after "Wait!" Say it quickly and urgently because Nia catches Ben's sleeve and is worried.**
3	How should Ben's pace and volume on "Oh" differ from Nia's voice on "Wait!"?	**Ben's "Oh" should be slower and softer. Nia's "Wait!" should be quicker and louder.**
4	Should Nia sound excited or disappointed when she calls, "There it goes!" What happens just before she speaks?	**Excited. The toad springs into the leaves just before Nia calls out.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ava: "Look, / the class turtle is awake!"
Sam: "Oh, / is it moving toward us?"

Accept other voice choices when students support them with details from the story. In the original dialogue, look for two distinct feelings, one pause and one stressed word in each line, and an oral reading that matches those choices.